

ALLIES TOOK 12,000 PRISONERS;
BULGARIANS OFFER TO QUIT WAR

German Defense System Based on Fortress of Laon Severely Shaken by Heavy Thrusts Made by Americans, French and the British

BRITISH STARTED DIRECT ATTACK THIS MORNING

(By the Associated Press.)

Under allied smashes on two wide fronts between Arras and Verdun, the German defensive system based on the fortress of Laon is being shaken severely.

Marshal Foch, while continuing the successful Franco-American thrust from east of Rheims to Verdun, has hurled the British against the German lines north of Cambrai on a front south of the Senece river.

From the new line reached Thursday night, the American forces between the Argonne and the Meuse continue to press northward through the hilly wooded country northwest of Verdun. The Americans are well beyond the original German lines and hold important observation points along the front. A light rain fell Friday on the American sector, and the weather was unfavorable for observation.

West of the Argonne to the Suippe the French have advanced more than three and one-half miles and taken and passed beyond formidable German defense points, including the famous Navarin farm, the Butte du Taurus and the Butte du Mesnil. General Petain's men took more than 7,000 prisoners, who, with the 5,000 taken by the Americans, bring the allied total for the first day of the attack to 12,000.

In the Argonne forest itself, the allies appear to be making little effort to move northward. The allied command seemingly believes the forest will be cleared automatically as the Americans and French progress on either side. Already the Germans facing the French in the forest have been outflanked on the east.

The new British attack launched this morning is north of the scene of the operations of the last fortnight looking to the encirclement of St. Quentin and threatens the German defenses north and west of Cambrai. South of the Senece river the British are well within the Hindenburg line and on ground untouched previously by heavy fighting. West of Cambrai they are just west of the German line, and the new operation probably is planned to outflank the Hindenburg position from Cambrai to St. Quentin. The Franco-American thrust farther south is aimed against the communications behind this front.

Paris, Sept. 27, 11:30 a. m.—Reports at this hour from the battle front in the Champagne between the Suippe and Meuse rivers indicate that the attack of the French and American troops is progressing under the most favorable conditions.

General Gouraud's fourth army in the Champagne resumed its attack this morning from the positions captured from the Germans yesterday. The assault is progressing satisfactorily. The French have attained all their objectives. The prisoners captured by the French to-day have not yet been counted.

SERBIAN ADVANCE
SWEEPS INTO ISHTIB

Great Number of Germans and Bulgarians Have Been Taken, Together with Enormous Supplies.

London, Sept. 27.—In the successful continuance of their drive northward the Serbians have entered Ishtib and captured other important points, says the Serbian official statement of Thursday.

A great number of additional Bulgarians and Germans have been captured by the Serbians, who also have taken enormous quantities of war materials. The Serbians now are west of the Ishtib-Vale road and have captured the height of Bogolovets, south of the road. North of Demirkapu, in the direction of the Bulgarian border, the Serbs have captured the ridge of Beli Kanen.

Serbian cavalry has entered Kochana, 20 miles northeast of Ishtib and fourteen miles from the Bulgarian border, southwest of the important railroad of Kustendil.

PRUSSIAN WAR
MINISTER QUIT

Von Stein Tried to Resign During the Summer of 1917, But His Resignation Was Not Accepted.

London, Sept. 27.—Lieutenant General Von Stein, the Prussian war minister, is reported to have resigned, according to advices to the Exchange Telegraph company from Copenhagen.

General Von Stein became Prussian minister late in October, 1916, succeeding Lieutenant General Wild Von Hohenborn, who was placed in command of an army corps on the western front. General Von Stein had been in command of the Fourteenth reserve army corps, after having served as quartermaster general. Before his appointment as war minister he was in command of troops on the Somme front in France. General Von Stein tendered his resignation as Prussian minister of war on July 13, 1917, but it was not accepted.

Supreme Court Opening Postponed. A communication from Justice John H. Watson to The Times this morning announced that on account of the epidemic in Montpelier, opening of the October term of supreme court has been postponed until Oct. 15.

PERSHING'S MEN
STILL ADVANCE

Patrols Maintaining Contact with the Enemy

GERMANS CAUGHT
MOVING BIG GUNS

Their Machine Gun Fire Put Down by Tanks and Artillery

American Army on the Verdun Front, Sept. 27, 10 a. m. (By the Associated Press).—The American advance continued during last night on the front of the offensive launched yesterday. The American patrols pushed forward, maintaining contact with the enemy. Stout machine gun resistance met during the late night at one point was quickly overcome with tanks and artillery.

The weather to-day was thick, light rains having begun in the early morning in the field of the American operation, obscuring observation. Late information tends to confirm the belief that the German heavy artillery was caught in the act of withdrawal and was unable to operate or reply satisfactorily. It is not known at this hour whether any of the enemy big guns were captured.

The machine gun opposition met by the Americans was in the Bois Cuisse. (This may be the Clerges wood, three miles northwest of Montfaucon, the capture of which General Pershing reported yesterday.)

Paris, Sept. 27.—American troops in their attack northwest of Verdun appear to have attained all and more than all their objectives. The Americans are confronted by the German fifth army. The force had been diluted, which explains the relatively small number of prisoners taken. The American advance over most difficult ground amidst woods is looked upon here as a fine feat of arms. Montfaucon, whose heavy artillery dominates the horizon, was passed by the Americans and now is well within the newly conquered ground.

The Argonne forest itself is "dead ground" between the two attacking fronts, but the capture by the Americans of Montblainville (on the eastern outskirts of the forest) bottles up the Germans holding the positions in front of Four de Paris. Germans there now have the French in front of them and the Americans at their backs.

The Germans, it is believed here, have only one division in the Argonne. This force now has no other means of retreat but over the rough roads leading northward through the woods.

"By taking Varennes and Montfaucon with a series of positions that General Von Gallwitz considered so impregnable that he could not have taken indispensable precautions," says Marcel Hutin in the Echo de Paris, "the Americans have given a significant new edition of their victory in the St. Mihiel salient."

PERSHING REVEALS
TROOPS IN ACTION

Units from Pennsylvania, Kansas and Missouri Were Engaged in the Early Stages of the Battle.

Washington, Sept. 27.—First details of the new victory of the American forces, reported last night by General Pershing in his daily communique, caused elation in Washington to-day.

Capture of the strong position of Montfaucon appeared to observers as the most striking feature in the report of the American commander. Identification by General Pershing of the troops' operation around Montblainville, Vauquois and Cheppy as units from Pennsylvania, Kansas and Missouri also was regarded as significant, making as it did the first time the American commander has seen fit to make public the divisions taking part in the first stages of a large operation.

MOTORISTS WON SUIT.

Brought Action Against Town of East Montpelier.

The jury in the case of C. DeF. Bancroft, jr., vs. the town of East Montpelier returned a verdict in Washington county court Thursday evening, having spent apparently but little time in reaching a decision in the matter, for the case was not given them until after 5 o'clock and they went to supper before they found a verdict for him, which they did. The jury apparently considered the place where his automobile went off the road in a bad condition.

When county court convened this morning there was no case ready for trial, so the jury was excused until next Tuesday, when it is expected that the case of Maude Simpson vs. the Central Vermont railway will go on trial. It looked Thursday afternoon as though a two weeks' recess would be taken, but because there was no work at hand, but the railroad case is ready.

Miss Evelyn Matheson of Hill street, one of the 1918 graduates from Spaulding high school, returned to the city this forenoon from The Fabyans, N. H., where she has been spending a few months.

SOME REDUCTIONS
ON APPRAISALS

Largest Was \$15,000 on Plant of the Barre Gas Co.—Some Individuals Got Lower Valuations.

Reductions aggregating \$19,500 were made by the board of civil authority last evening as the result of appeals taken by local property owners from the quadrennial appraisals of the board of assessors. The largest reduction was granted the Barre Gas Co., which appealed from an appraisal that changed the valuation of its depot square plant and mains from \$45,000 to \$30,000. Two appeals were taken on home properties, and in each instance reductions of \$500 were granted. In notable instances the assessors gave as their reason for jumping the appraisals the claim that the valuations made by them four years ago were too low.

The board convened at 7 o'clock in the court room at city hall and after Justice of the Peace James Mackay had administered the oath to each of the 12 members present, Frank G. Howland was elected chairman. There were only six appeals, but no suspicion of snap judgment was attached to the action of the board, as nearly an hour was devoted to the consideration of each case. All six appellants had complied with the law, which requires written notice of a desire to appeal, with a copy served on the assessors as well as the city clerk. Alderman Stephen Rizzi, who appealed on the valuation of his North Main street property, filed a copy with the clerk, it developed, but through a misunderstanding, he did not leave a copy in the office of the assessors. Although the assessors entered a protest against the stand, the board voted to hear Mr. Rizzi.

Claiming that the appraisal of its coal sheds, silos, office, house, etc., on Smith street, as fixed by the assessors, was \$13,000 too high, the D. M. Miles Coal Co. asked for a reduction from \$24,000 to \$11,000, the latter being the figure at which it was appraised four years ago. The assessors explained that their appraisal in 1914 was too low. D. M. Miles spoke for the coal company and in comparing the valuation with other appraisals said that the figure inserted by the assessors was unfair. The fact was cited that the buildings, with the exception of the silos, and especially the so-called old sheds, where the appraisal was raised, are rapidly depreciating in value. Assessor A. M. Rossi quoted Mr. Miles as saying that he would sell the property for \$6,000, and then assured the representative of the company that he had found a purchaser for him. To which Mr. Miles replied that his purchaser could have the deed any time. Later, when the case was considered by the board, A. A. Sargent moved that the appraisal be reduced to \$5,500. W. D. Smith seconded, and the motion prevailed.

Thereafter the chairman was frequently moved to spur the board to action, as there was a tendency to dilate at length on matters that already had been thoroughly considered. In the case of Mrs. C. E. Bolster, the chairman threatened to pass to the next case if his colleagues did not act. Through her agent, A. E. Campbell, Mrs. Bolster protested against raising the appraisal of her Granite street steam plant from \$7,000 to \$10,000. Again the assessors claimed a mistake on their part four years ago, but Mr. Campbell declared that the property, by reason of the fact that the machinery is very old, is depreciating rapidly. A reduction of \$2,000 was granted on a motion made by J. A. Healy and seconded by James Brown. The request for a reduction from \$10,000 to \$8,000 on the Depot square building occupied as a saloon was dismissed on a motion made by D. J. Sullivan and seconded by A. A. Sargent.

In the case of the Barre Outing club, which has made a specialty of black bass and perch this year, the jollification was held at Berlin pond, where every member but one responded when a fish dinner, furnished through the kindness of T. J. Mercer and Jack Carrick, was served on the shores on the little lake. F. W. Bancroft, being detained at home by grip, sent his regrets, but others were there with uncompromising appetites. It is the purpose of the members to perpetuate the organization, and to that end the following officers were elected: President, A. C. Moore; secretary, J. E. Higgins; chaplain and chef, Mr. Mercer; curator, E. J. Owens. Grip continues to rage in Barre and vicinity and the total number of cases reported continues to climb steadily, although naturally many of those who were stricken in the earlier days of the epidemic are recovering. One death was reported this morning. Overworked physicians are wondering when the epidemic will have spent its force. It may be several days yet before the malady begins to lose its grip—grip is the word—on the community. Extra nurses have been engaged to assist in fighting the epidemic, and while the available number of doctors has not been increased, many are using tried prescriptions with good results, thereby releasing their family physicians for duty elsewhere. There is a strong feeling that public meetings should be discouraged until the epidemic has had its run, and there is a possibility that the city board of health will ask to have public gatherings postponed for a time. Many believe that clothing worn in the street and the free tonic of sunshine will have the wholesome effect of reducing the daily number of new cases.

ing his appeal before the board. He asked for a reduction of \$500 on his Jefferson street home, now assessed at \$3,500; for a reduction of \$1,500 on his Washington street livery barn, assessed for \$6,000; and for a reduction of \$1,500 on the David More property on South Main street, which he purchased some years ago. The latter was assessed for \$5,000. On the first appeal, Mr. Smith's motion to dismiss was seconded by Mr. Sargent and carried. On the second appeal, the motion to dismiss was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Glysson. It was carried. The members of the board thought that the South Main street appraisal was too high, and to that end the appraisal was reduced to \$4,000, on a motion made by Mr. Sargent, and seconded by Mr. Smith. Adjournment followed.

"FIGHTING FOURTH"
LIBERTY LOAN

Begins SEPTEMBER 28th

Get ready; save to buy; buy early

DRAFT LOTTERY
NEXT MONDAY

Definite Announcement Was Made To-day by Crowder

DISTRICT BOARDS
TO REVEAL NUMBERS

Just as Soon as the List Can Be Put into Print

Washington, D. C., Sept. 27.—Monday, Sept. 30, was set by Provost Marshal General Crowder to-day as the national draft lottery date to determine the order in the classes to which they will be assigned of the 15,000,000 men from 18 to 45 who registered for selective service Sept. 12.

The drawing will take place publicly at the Senate office building and the numbers will be given to the press and the country by district draft boards as quickly as the list can be printed and put into the hands of the boards by mail.

It will be necessary this time to draw one at a time approximately 17,000 capsules, containing the serial numbers and it will require approximately 26 hours to complete the task.

DRIVE BEGAN IN PERFECT ORDER.

Americans Moved Into Position Without a Hitch.

With the American Army on the Champagne front, Thursday, Sept. 26, 5:30 a. m.—(By the Associated Press). Secretary of War Newton D. Baker witnessed the beginning of the American drive along the front northwest of Verdun this morning. At 5:30 o'clock, after the enemy position had been bombarded with high explosives and gas shells, the American infantry advanced.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Miss Margaret Booth of Prospect street began work this morning as a clerk in the Barre Fruit store.

Mrs. H. G. Richardson, who has been visiting friends in the city, returned this morning to her home in Essex Junction.

Dr. J. W. Jackson of South Main street, who has been confined to his home during the past few days on account of illness, was able to be out of doors yesterday afternoon for a period of time, although he has not as yet resumed his complete practice.

Mrs. H. G. Bennett returned last night from Boston, where she was called Friday to the Hotel Vendome by the illness of her son, Russell B. Eastman, who had an attack of the influenza. He had so far recovered that he was able to return to Barre with her last night.

For some reports are received concerning the condition of Carl Burgess, son of Mr. and Mrs. Riley Burgess of Washington street, who was stricken with the prevailing malady while attending the radio school in Boston. Mr. Burgess is making steady progress toward recovery and expects to be released from the hospital in the near future.

Yesterday the curtain was lowered on the season of the Barre Outing club, which has made a specialty of black bass and perch this year. The jollification was held at Berlin pond, where every member but one responded when a fish dinner, furnished through the kindness of T. J. Mercer and Jack Carrick, was served on the shores on the little lake.

F. W. Bancroft, being detained at home by grip, sent his regrets, but others were there with uncompromising appetites. It is the purpose of the members to perpetuate the organization, and to that end the following officers were elected: President, A. C. Moore; secretary, J. E. Higgins; chaplain and chef, Mr. Mercer; curator, E. J. Owens. Grip continues to rage in Barre and vicinity and the total number of cases reported continues to climb steadily, although naturally many of those who were stricken in the earlier days of the epidemic are recovering. One death was reported this morning. Overworked physicians are wondering when the epidemic will have spent its force. It may be several days yet before the malady begins to lose its grip—grip is the word—on the community. Extra nurses have been engaged to assist in fighting the epidemic, and while the available number of doctors has not been increased, many are using tried prescriptions with good results, thereby releasing their family physicians for duty elsewhere. There is a strong feeling that public meetings should be discouraged until the epidemic has had its run, and there is a possibility that the city board of health will ask to have public gatherings postponed for a time. Many believe that clothing worn in the street and the free tonic of sunshine will have the wholesome effect of reducing the daily number of new cases.

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Allied Commander in Macedonia Refused to Suspend Victorious Operations But Offered to Receive Duly Qualified Bulgarian Delegates

SERBIANS AND THEIR ALLIES
RIPPING UP ENEMY ARMY

Paris, Sept. 27.—The French commander-in-chief in Macedonia officially reports to-day that the Bulgarians have asked for a meeting to arrange the conditions of an armistice and eventual peace.

The French commander replied, refusing to suspend the operations, but saying he would receive duly qualified delegates of the Bulgarian government.

London, Sept. 27.—The British government to-day received from an official authorized source an application from Bulgaria for an armistice.

London, Sept. 27.—Premier Malinoff of Bulgaria has made an offer of an armistice to the allies, according to a Berlin message transmitted by the Exchange Telegraph correspondent at Copenhagen. The message states that the premier's offer was made without the support of other members of the cabinet or of King Ferdinand. The Berlin message says that Malinoff's offer has created great dissatisfaction in Bulgaria and that strong military measures have been taken to support the Bulgarian front. According to statements from Sofia by way of Jassy, it is added, a counter movement against the action of the premier has already been set on foot. (This would seem to indicate that a revolution is in progress in Bulgaria.)

Amsterdam, Sept. 27.—The Bulgarian premier's offer of an armistice was made to the leader of the extreme troops operating against Bulgaria, according to a Berlin message received here.

London, Sept. 27.—Germany intends to send a solemn protest to Bulgaria against Premier Malinoff's request for an armistice, according to Berlin reports received in Amsterdam and forwarded by the Exchange Telegraph company.

News of the Bulgarian developments, including the offer of an armistice, the Copenhagen correspondent states, was from German official sources.

DEATH OF HENRY WATKINS.
He Had Been in Failing Health for Some Years.

Henry Watkins passed away at his home, 9 Summer street, at noon to-day. He had been in failing health for several years, although his confinement to the house dated back only a week. He leaves his wife, who, before her marriage June 25, 1912, was Miss Jessie S. Anderson, and his son, Douglas L. Watkins. Surviving also are his mother, Mrs. Mary Watkins of Barre; four sisters, Mrs. Floyd Stanton of Montreal, P. Q., Miss Jane Watkins of Montreal, Miss Clara Watkins and Miss Hazel Watkins of this city, and two brothers, Sherman Watkins of Montreal, and Roy Watkins of Barre.

He was born in Scranton, Pa., Aug. 3, 1887. At the age of three he went with his parents to Concord, N. H., and came to Barre 13 years later. Here he attended the public schools and afterward learned the tool sharpener's trade, being employed in the granite industry for several years before declining health compelled him to retire. For three years Mr. Watkins lived in California, returning to Barre last December. The deceased was a member of Hearts of Oak lodge, Sons of St. George, and also belonged to the Italian Pleasure club. Mr. Watkins possessed a winning personality and a faculty for cultivating lasting friendships. He was a patient sufferer and in his untimely passing his wide circle of acquaintances feel the loss of a warm friend.

SAID COREY DEAD.

Grip Victim Had Recently Resided in Granvilleville.

Pneumonia, developing from the grip, claimed another victim last night when said Corey, aged 20, until recently a resident of this city, passed away at his home in Granvilleville. The accident came at 9:45 o'clock. The young man had been ill for a week and from the outset his case developed symptoms that have been observed in nearly all of the cases of grip pandemic just now. He is survived by his mother, Mrs. Mary Corey, with whom he resided. Alex. Corey, who recently purchased the Aldrich store in Granvilleville, and by whom the deceased was employed, is an uncle, and Peter Corey of Prospect street is the young man's cousin. Mr. Corey's father and several brothers and sisters are supposed to be living in Syria, their native land, although nothing has been heard from them since the renewal of the Turkish atrocities when the war broke out four years ago.

The deceased was born in Mount Lebanon, Syria, in February, 1895. He came to America with his mother some years ago and mother and son were about to be joined by other members of the family when the war placed an embargo on transportation and communication. Mr. Corey was a member of St. Monica's church in this city.

A mass of requests will be celebrated over the body at St. Sylvester's church in Granvilleville Saturday morning at 9 o'clock, the parish priest, Rev. Fr. Joseph Turcot, officiating. Interment is to be made in St. Sylvester's cemetery at South Barre.

Not to Be Sent to Devens. Gov. H. F. Graham this morning received a telegram from the war department that owing to the spread of Spanish influenza in Camp Devens, call 103, which was made a few days ago, is cancelled. This means that the men from Vermont will not be sent to that camp for some time.

Notice. A special meeting of Barre branch, Granite Cutters' International association, will be held in the Barre opera house Saturday, Sept. 28, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. Important business. J. D. Will, secretary.

ANOTHER BARRE SOLDIER DEAD.

Private Louis Sempereboni Died of Spanish Influenza at Camp Devens.

Another of Barre's sons who went forward to offer their all for home and country has succumbed to the ravages of Spanish influenza, news having been received here last night of the death at Camp Devens of Private Louis Sempereboni of 7 Addison place. Relatives of the young man have wired his captain to ship the body to this city at once, but arrangements for the funeral are held in abeyance, pending receipt of advices from the cantonment. The telegram, received by Giuseppe Sempereboni, a brother of the deceased, said that he died Thursday forenoon at 9:15 o'clock. Earlier it had been learned that he was stricken with the malady several days ago, although at first it was thought that his condition indicated an early recovery.

Private Sempereboni was born in San Emidio, Italy, 24 years ago. He had been a resident of Barre for the past eight years, having been employed here latterly as a granite cutter. He leaves his mother, Mrs. Theresa Sempereboni, his brother, Giuseppe Sempereboni, both of Barre, a sister in Italy, and his brother, Giulio Sempereboni, who is fighting for the cause of democracy in the Italian army. The young soldier was called to the colors three months ago, and reported at once to Camp Devens. Here in Barre he was highly respected by his compatriots in the Italian colony, as well as by others. He is the second boy from Barre's Italian colony to die from Spanish influenza, the death of Private Pellegrini of Camp Upton having been reported yesterday.

For the reason that the time is unknown when the body shall arrive in Barre, funeral arrangements have not been completed, although it is possible that a double funeral will be held for Private Sempereboni and Pellegrini. Joseph Comoli of Foster street, until recently a member of the school commission, and at present an employee of Barclay Bros., received a telegram last evening stating that Private Bineedi had passed away at Camp Devens. Mr. Comoli, having no recollection of an acquaintance named Clarence Bineedi, communicated the information to Joseph Comoli of Boynton street, thinking that the latter knows of no one named Bineedi, and both men of the name to whom the telegram was addressed are under the impression that the message was misdirected. No one in the Italian colony seems to know Clarence Bineedi, and for several years past the city directory has not contained that name. The Western Union operator, who received the message is continuing his efforts to locate friends or relatives of the man.

Accompanied by his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor, and his half-brother, Robert Taylor of Elmwood avenue, who were called to Brooklyn, N. Y., Wednesday morning, the body of Seaman James McIntosh, who died in the Brooklyn navy yard Wednesday, arrived in the city over the Central Vermont railroad this afternoon at 1:20 o'clock. Arrangements for the funeral will be announced later.

It is expected that the remains of Supply Sergt. Robert Brown, son of Mrs. John Brown of Bassett street, who died at Camp Devens Wednesday, will arrive this evening or early to-morrow morning, accompanied by his brothers, William and George Brown. No funeral plans have been completed.

The body of Private Zeno Pellegrini, whose death occurred at Camp Upton, according to word received at 90 Smith street, is expected here this evening.

BARRE TOWN SCHOOLS

Will Be Closed All of Next Week on Advice of Health Officer.

The school directors of Barre Town, on advice of the health officer, have decided to close all the schools in the town for the whole of next week.

G. J. Seager, Supt.